Space Interferometry Mission (SIM): Overview and Current Status

James C. Marr-IV*, et al
NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

ABSTRACT

The Space Interferometry Mission (SIM) will be the first in-space, long-baseline Michelson Stellar Interferometer. SIM will perform precision astrometry at the micro-arcsecond accuracy level, which will be used to characterize planetary systems around stars within about ten parsecs of Earth, establish a more accurate stellar reference grid, and address a number of other key topics in astrophysics. This paper provides a broad overview of the SIM Mission. Topics covered include: the science objectives, key top level requirements, how the mission will be implemented (technical and programmatic), technology development status, an assessment of where the project is today, and prognosis for the future.

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